



Technical Standards and Health Requirements: Nursing Students

Prospective nursing student candidates must demonstrate the physical and psychological ability to provide safe care for patients in the clinical setting. These technical standards serve as a guide for each prospective student to assess his or her ability to provide safe and competent nursing care prior to choosing nursing as a career.

Applicants for the nursing programs at Surry Community College must be able to meet and maintain satisfactory demonstration of these standards throughout the program for entry into and satisfactory completion of their respective programs.

Surry Community College’s Office of Accessibility Services provides equal access to programs and services through the provision of reasonable accommodations, resources and services. Students may contact the Director of Accessibility Services at 336-386-3443 or brackenl@surry.edu for further information on accessibility resources.

In addition to the Technical Standards below each nursing student must demonstrate physical, emotional and cognitive health and abilities which are broadly defined as follows.

Construct	Description	Examples	Demonstrated By
PHYSICAL HEALTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being free of disabling or contagious disease • Able to perform fine and gross motor skills • Able to perform standard weight-bearing activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Able to perform expected activities of the nursing student 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical health form completed by health care provider • Laboratory tests • Observation throughout program • Satisfactory demonstration of clinical clearance items including the following immunizations and titers as required by clinical agencies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DPT - 2-step PPD initially with annual PPD and/or chest x-ray and annual screening with history of positive PPD - Hepatitis B Series - Varicella - Measles, Mumps, Rubella - Polio - Meningitis - Annual Influenza - COVID-19

Construct	Description	Examples	Demonstrated By
EMOTIONAL HEALTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reacting appropriately to stressful situations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be able to withstand everyday environmental stresses with little difficulty • Must use healthy coping mechanisms and have an awareness of one's own ability to cope with stressful situations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation of student behavior and interaction • Letters from psychiatrists or therapists if intensive therapy is in progress or has occurred • Psychological evaluations, if necessary
COGNITIVE ABILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abilities that collectively result in gathering information to utilize/apply for decision making in health care situations • Must be oriented to person, place, and time • Able to organize responsibilities and solve problems involving measurement, calculation, reasoning and analysis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be able to collect pertinent data to construct sound, safe decisions for patient care 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assembly of data collected from patient chart, report received from other members of the healthcare team, and various diagnostics for clinical decision making • Efficient and effective monitoring of patient status, developing & prioritizing targeted nursing interventions

If health/abilities prevent satisfactory classroom, lab or clinical performance or interfere with other students' abilities to have satisfactory experiences, a person may be denied admission or continued enrollment in the program until the identified condition is satisfactorily corrected.

Technical Standards: Surry Community College Nursing

**Students function within their respective scope of practice

Standard	Description	Example
CRITICAL THINKING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must possess critical thinking ability sufficient for clinical judgment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discerning changes in client status to report to supervising nurse or provider Using nursing process to resolve nursing problems through cause-effect factor identification
COMMUNICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must possess communication abilities sufficient for interaction with others in verbal and written form to include speaking, hearing, reading, writing, language skills, computer literacy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accurate, clear and effective information shared with patients, family members, and other members of interdisciplinary team Not infringing on the rights of others through communication Follows directions of others in supervisory roles Accepts and incorporates feedback on performance
MOTOR SKILLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must possess gross and fine motor skills sufficient to provide safe and effective nursing care. Must demonstrate physical strength and endurance sufficient to allow delivery of nursing care, both routine and emergency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moving about safely in-patient rooms, work spaces, and treatment areas Gathering assessment data by observation, palpation, auscultation, or other diagnostic methods Carrying patient care equipment and supplies Completing assigned periods of clinical practice which may be up to 12 hours Demonstrating patient care procedures such as catheter insertion, tracheostomy care, suctioning, manipulation of intravenous equipment, and use of patient care equipment Performance of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Lifting, transferring or otherwise moving or assisting with patient positioning and mobility, such as transfers from bed to stretcher, bed to chair, etc.
HEARING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must possess auditory ability sufficient to monitor and assess health needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detecting heart sounds or lung sounds on auscultation Hearing alarms created by equipment such as cardiac monitors and medication pumps Hearing patient's calls for help

Standard	Description	Example
VISION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must possess visual ability sufficient for observation and assessment necessary for nursing care • Visual acuity must be sufficient to allow the student to gather data from written reference materials and patient charts, and well as from patient interactions and observations of the patient in his/her environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identifying correct medications and doses, using materials such as syringes, medicine cups, and IV tubing • Noting a change in skin color
SMELL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have olfactory abilities sufficient to detect environmental or patient changes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Detecting problematic smells from patient (foul drainage) • Detecting smoke • Detecting gases
TACTILE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must possess tactile ability sufficient for physical assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance of palpation in physical examination to detect patient pulses, detection of nodules, etc. • Ability to detect unsafe temperature levels in patient equipment such as heating pads • Able to apply/insert therapeutic devices such as IV catheters, urinary catheters, Enteral feeding bags, etc.
WEIGHT BEARING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must possess the ability to maneuver/move 40-50 pounds frequently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transfer of patients as noted under mobility • Positioning of patients • Movement of patients and/or equipment
INTERPERSONAL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be able to interact with individuals respecting social, cultural and spiritual diversity with honesty, integrity and non-discrimination. • Students demonstrate the ability to develop a mature, sensitive and effective therapeutic relationship with patients, as well as demonstrate the ability to work constructively in stressful and changing environments while modifying own behaviors in response to the environment or to constructive criticism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remaining calm in an emergent situation • Demonstrating appropriate judgment and prompt completion of all responsibilities relevant to care of the patient • Interacting with others who are exhibiting strong emotions while controlling personal responses • Focusing and maintaining attention on tasks in a stressful environment while interacting with patients or families who may also be experiencing stress
OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential exposure to communicable disease and/or body fluids, toxic substances, and/or medicinal preparations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students may be assigned to provide total care for clients with Tuberculosis, Hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, or coronavirus.

*These standards are adopted by the SCC Nursing Department and developed in compliance with our clinical agencies and the Americans with Disabilities Act.